Export of Textiles, Gems and Jewellery

1264. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian export basket has virtually remained unchanged over the years with low-value-added commodities pre-dominating;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, alongwith the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in some sectors like textiles we have actually lost market share and in gem and jewellery unit realisations have been stagnant; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Over the years, India's export basket have withnessed a significant shift in favour of value added products in place of traditional and low value added commodities. A number of measures have already been taken to augment exports. These include bringing down the rate of interest on export credit from 11% to 9%, strengthening the existing export incentive schemes, simplification of procedures and addressing sector specific issues. Policy review is a continuous process and is based on interaction with trade and industry associations.

(c) and (d) Export value (in US $ million) and export growth rate of Textiles and Gem and Jewellery is given below:—

Textiles

Year	Value $ mn.	growth rate (%)
1996-97	8045	7.7
1997-98	8238	2.4
Apr.-Nov. 1998	5173	– 6.9

Gems and Jewellery

Year	Value $ mn.	growth rate (%)
1996-97	4753	– 9.9
1997-98	5116	7.6
Apr.-Nov. 1998	3723	15.2

Source: DGCI&S

Trans-Asian Road and Railway Network

1265. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the route and alignment of Trans-Asian Railway and road network has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the proposed plan schedule for its execution; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in finalisation and when it is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Under the aegis of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project, the Economic and Solcial Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is considering finalisation of various study reports submitted by ESCAP Member-countries on alignment of Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) linkages including the report submitted by India. ESCAP will be carrying out consultations during March 1999 will the concerned Member-countries and would discuss the results of the draft study report in an Expert Group Meeting during May, 1999.

As regards Asian Highway Road Network, studies on road network connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mangolia, Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula and on identification of Asian Highway Routes in Turkey and underway so as to complete the formulation of Asian Highway Network for the whole Asia. The

development of the Asian Highway Network is an on-going process with provision made for the revision of the network, once in every five years. The 2nd Revision of the Asian Highway Network is due around the year 2000. ESCAP has already started receiving proposals from some member-countries for new routes to be added or replaced. ESCAP is also collecting road data and information through its own studies based on the ESCAP Asian Highway Database to prepare for the revision of the Asian Highway Network around 2000. The Asian Highway Network component in India has been finalised.

Value addition Norms for Agro-Based Exports

1266. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have modified minimum value addition norms for agro-based Export Oriented Units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such amendment will be made?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Suggestions, if any, received for change/modifications would be kept in view while formulating the Export Import Policy.

Production Consumption and Export of Mica

1267. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production, consumption and export of mica during the last one year;

(b) whether there is any slump in the world trade of mica during this period; and

(c) the contribution of MITCO in the production, trade and giving employment during one year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Sir, the production, consumption and export of mica during last one year is as follows:

(Qty. in Tonnes)

Year	Production* (Crude, Waste & Scrap)	Consumption	Export** (Including power waste & Scrap)
1997-98	2766	Not available	30850

Source: *IBM, Nagpur; **DGCI&S

(b) Yes Sir, there has been a slump in the mica trade on account of world-wide recessionary conditions.

(c) Erstwhile MITCO (Mica Trading Corporation of India Limited), now Mica Division of MMTC is engaged in export of Mica scrap (canalised) and mica based products but not in mica mining and production. MMTC's Mica trade turnover during 1997-98 was Rs. 1268 Lakhs, Export of Mica also generates indirect employment at various stages from mining and production to exports. However, the from figures regarding the contribution of such employment is not assessed by MMTC.

Indo-Myanmar Treaty

1268. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism for proper monitoring of the Indo-Myanmar trade treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that this treaty has resulted in great loss to Indian traders and greatly benefited the Myanmar traders; and